(b) the amount of work yet to be completed and the main reasons for delay;

(c) the estimated expenditure of this plan; and

(d) by when Bhind to Etawah railway line would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Guna-Etawah (348.25 km) new rail line was sanctioned in 1985-86. Entire section except Bhind-Etawah (36 km) has already been completed and commissioned. There has been delay in completion of this 36 km section due to non-transfer of forest land involving Wild Life Sanctuary by Government of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Work shall be completed in about a year time once the land is made available. The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs.515.24 crore.

Survey of rail lines in Uttarakhand

†2753. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway lines in the State of Uttarakhand where survey work is in progress;

(b) whether Ramnagar-Chaukhutia railway line mentioned in the speech of Minister of Railways in the year 1984-85 has also been included in these railway lines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and time by when the survey work of this line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No survey is in progress in the State of Uttarakhand.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The survey for Ramnagar to Chaukhutiya line had already been completed in 1994-95.

New railway zone at Salem

2754. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any administrative obstacles and inconvenience to operate the new railway zone at Salem in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by Government to solve such obstacles and also the indifferent attitude of the officials at Bangalore railway zone and Palakkad railway division; and

(d) the amount allocated for the full fledged railway operations at Salem, Tamil Nadu?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no proposal to set up New Railway Zone at Salem in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SAIL plant at Bokaro

†2755, SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the expansion plan of the steel plant of SAIL located at Bokaro in Jharkhand;

(b) the target set for the completion of this plan; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, in implementation of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) SAIL Board has approved 'in-principle' the expansion plan of Bokaro Steel Plant in December, 2006 and tendering activities for various packages of the expansion plan are in progress.

(b) The expansion plan is planned to be completed by 2010 progressively.

(c) At present, there is no delay in implementation of this plan.

Lease of CIOM to SAIL

2756. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute regarding the renewal of the lease of Chiria Iron Ore Mine to SAIL is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the lease is renewed at an early date; and

(d) by when the lease is likely to be renewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Jharkhand had rejected the proposal for renewal of 3 out of 6 mining leases of Chiria Iron Ore mine in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and later the matter went to the Jharkhand High Court and the case is presently *sub-judice*.

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by the Ministry of Steel to resolve the issues and the matter has been taken up at various levels including the Prime Minister's Office also. A dialogue is also under way with the State Government for ensuring that Steel Authority of India Limited's iron ore requirements from Chiria are met.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.